

2007 Vermont EMS Awards

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For many years, the Vermont Department of Health Office of EMS and Injury Prevention (VTEMS) has sponsored an awards recognition program at the Vermont EMS Conference. The awards have been an excellent opportunity to recognize our best people and organizations for the contributions that they have made. We have also tried to make the awards inclusive in that there would be a category for almost anyone who was making a noteworthy contribution to the EMS system. We have tried to make the awards based more on sustained performance rather than an isolated heroic event or incident. We have modified the number and types of awards in the past and are doing so again this year to improve the way we recognize VT's EMS providers.

Traditionally, nominations for awards have been solicited from anyone within the Vermont EMS system who wishes to have a deserving person or group considered. VTEMS has developed standard criteria for consideration. Nominators have written letters for their nominees based on those criteria. A group of peers was assembled by VTEMS and those persons reviewed the applications to make final award selections.

A few issues have arisen with the award system over time that we would like to address this year. These include:

- Occasionally we get only a single nominee or no nominees for some of the existing awards categories
- Frequently we get nominations that lack detail about the qualifications or accomplishments of the nominee
- Commonly, the nominee selected to receive the award does not attend the EMS Conference or the Awards Banquet. This creates difficulties in making a meaningful presentation ceremony

In an effort to improve the Vermont EMS Awards and the presentation ceremony at the EMS Conference, we assembled a group of past awards recipients to consider how to update the awards program in a way that honors deserving members of the VT EMS system and at the same time is manageable and likely to achieve sufficient nominations in all categories. This group made several recommendations which we would like to begin implementing this year:

- Consolidate some of the awards categories
- In the consolidation process, redesign some award titles and criteria to assure that there is an award for all deserving persons and groups within the VT EMS system
- Only present awards for categories where a nomination of a deserving individual or group is received by the nomination deadline
- The nominator of an award is responsible for assuring the attendance of the award recipient at the banquet. If this cannot be done, VTEMS will simply tell the recipient that they are receiving the award.

These changes seem like reasonable ways to improve the awards and to implement them. Nominations in the categories described on the following pages are now being requested for the 2007 EMS Awards

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2007 Vermont EMS Awards
Nomination Procedure

Ambulance Service of the Year and First Responder Service of the Year (two separate awards)

This award is intended to recognize VT based and licensed EMS organizations for their excellence in operations and service to their communities.

- Is currently a Vermont based and licensed ambulance or first responder service at any level
- Is active in local public education and or injury prevention efforts
- Has demonstrated positive relationships with the community(s) served, EMS District Board, and receiving hospital(s)
- Takes meaningful and visible steps to assure the professionalism of its personnel and quality of patient care provided
- Has identified areas where quality improvement is possible and has taken steps in these areas

BLS and ALS Provider of the Year (two separate awards)

This award is intended to recognize Vermont certified EMS personnel for their excellence in clinical skills, support of their EMS organizations, contributions to the development of other EMS professionals, or other involvement in the health and safety of communities in addition to providing emergency care.

- Is currently certified in Vermont as an (BLS) FR-ECA or EMT-Basic, (ALS) EMT-Intermediate, or Paramedic
- Has made exceptional contributions to his/her EMS organization
- Has strong and consistent clinical skills at his/her certification level
- Has made an outstanding contribution to the EMS system within or outside of his/her EMS organization
- May have been involved in EMS training, public education, injury prevention activities, specialty work with at risk populations, or similar functions

EMS Hospital of the Year

This award is intended to recognize a hospital and its affiliated hospital-based professionals for involvement in supporting the EMS system in the hospital's area. Hospital support in the areas of education and EMS personnel development, facility resources, technical assistance to EMS organizations, medical direction, quality improvement, integration of EMS into the spectrum of care and similar functions are all worthy areas for recognition.

- Is a licensed Vermont hospital with an emergency department that routinely receives ambulance patients
- Has physician, nursing, and administrative staff who actively support the local EMS system
- Has integrated the EMS system into the spectrum of care provided by the hospital

- Has taken steps to improve EMS through continuing education, quality improvement, technical assistance, facilities support, planning or similar measures
- Nominations in this category may be based primarily on the efforts of a single person, such as the ED nurse manager or EMS district medical advisor. Alternatively, the nomination may be based on the efforts of the team of people who work with EMS at the hospital.

EMS System Improvement Award

This award is intended to recognize a broad spectrum of people or groups that may have played significant roles in improving a local, district, statewide, or national EMS system. Candidates for this award could be elected officials, administrators, educators, EMS providers, public safety officials, physicians, nurses, private citizens, private companies, government agencies, or any other person or entity involved in EMS system improvement. The honoree in this category will have made recognizable positive changes in the EMS system. These accomplishments may have occurred over an extended time frame or may have been focused on a single project.

- May be individuals or organizations
- May be recognized for long term contributions or significant stand alone projects
- Need not be EMS providers or clinicians. Candidates could be elected officials, researchers, public safety officials, administrators, etc.
- May be recognized for system improvements on a local, EMS district, statewide, or national level
- System improvements could be for any element of an EMS system (e.g. system access, communications, BLS/ALS care, etc.) or could be for the system as a whole.

VTEMS also receives nominations for two additional awards given annually at the EMS Conference. These are:

Vermont SAFEKIDS Injury Prevention Award

- Is currently affiliated with an EMS district or a licensed ambulance or first responder service in Vermont.
- Has made an exceptional contribution to his/her organization and community in promoting injury prevention and public education.

Vermont Ambulance Association Chuck Hoag Memorial Scholarship

The Vermont Ambulance Association is pleased to offer the Chuck Hoag Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500, available to any member in good standing of a Vermont-licensed EMS organization. This scholarship is to be used to further education in the provision or management of medical care. Recipients will be chosen by the VAA.

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Nomination Procedure

Nominations are welcome from anyone wishing to have a person or organization recognized. When writing a nomination letter, please include your name, the nominee's name, title and EMS organization or other affiliation depending upon award category. Please keep in mind that a single "quality" nomination letter is of greater significance than several poorly-crafted ones. Letters should be easy to comprehend and thorough in describing the accomplishments of a nominee. Below are a few helpful hints to consider when submitting a nomination:

- Consider the awards criteria for the individual or organization you are interested in nominating.
- Remember, awards are based on an individual or service's overall contributions. Avoid focusing on single acts of heroism.
- Be sure that your nominee fits the criteria for the appropriate award category you are nominating them for.
- When writing a nomination letter, keep in mind that it will be read by committee members who may have little familiarity with the person, organization or service you are describing.
- If there is additional material such as newspaper articles, reports, or similar supporting documentation that sheds light on the background of the nominee, feel free to attach it to the nomination letter.
- Please arrange for the nominee or service to be present at the Vermont EMS Awards Ceremony held Saturday, March 31, 2007.

Nominations for this year's awards program must be postmarked no later than **Monday, March 5, 2007**. If you have any questions regarding this process or would like assistance in nominating an individual or service, please contact Dan Manz in the Vermont EMS Office or leave a message on the EMS Conference line at 863-7260.

Please Mail Award Nomination Letters to

Vermont EMS Conference – Awards
P.O. Box 64755
Burlington, VT 05406-4755